

The following was unanimously agreed upon, as the Result of the Conference and Consultation of the Committees chosen by a Number of Towns and Districts, viz. Ninety-five Towns, and Eight Districts, convened at Boston the 22d Day of September, 1768.

THE Inhabitants of a Number of Towns in his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts-Bay, being greatly alarmed at the present Aspect of our Public Affairs, and deeply distressed in their Minds, upon authentic Advice, that the humble and dutiful Petition of their Representatives, to our most gracious Sovereign, for the Redress of their Grievances, has not reached the Royal Presence: At a Time when they are threatened with the posting of regular Troops among them, while they are in an unusual Manner deprived of the Benefit of a General Assembly, the grand Council of the Province. And being desirous, to the utmost of their Ability, to promote Peace, good Order, and due Submission, among their Fellow-Subjects in the Province, have, in their several Town-Meetings, legally assembled, chosen us to meet together in Convention, in order to consult and advise for that Purpose; and also for the legal, regular, and prudential Methods of obtaining the Redress of our Grievances.

The said Committees having met for the Purposes aforesaid, and after Conference and Consultation on the Premises, thought it advisable to prefer a dutiful Petition to his Excellency Governor Bernard, his Majesty's Representative in this Province, therein setting forth, and explaining to his Excellency, the Nature and Design of their Meeting, and supplicating him to convene a General Assembly of the Representative Body of the People: But his Excellency having considered their thus Meeting, as unlawful, refused to receive the Petition; and sent them a Message, admonishing them to separate themselves; and also afterward he refused to receive an Answer, which the said Committee thought necessary to send to his Excellency, in consequence of his Message and Admonition to them; the Committee therefore considering that the peaceable and good Intention of their convening, might possibly be misunderstood, thought it necessary that their Proceedings should be made known to the World, by inserting the same in the Public Prints, that so every Suspicion of any illegal Design or Behaviour might be removed.

And the said Committees considering themselves only as so many private Fellow-Subjects, convened from divers Towns in this Province, at the Request of their Inhabitants, have made known to each other, the loyal and dutiful Disposition of the same; and their Desire that no irregular Steps should be taken by the People, but that all constitutional and prudential Methods should be closely attended to, for the Redress of their Grievances; and the said Committee, in pursuance of the pacific Intention of their Meeting, have considered that the gracious Attention of his most sacred Majesty to the Cause and Grounds of our Complaints, is the only regular Source of Relief from our present Distresses; and that the House of Representatives, in February last, did, in their faithful Care and Concern, for the Interest and Welfare of this Province, prefer such a Petition to his sacred Majesty, as by them was thought best adapted to obtain Relief; and at the same Time, did write Letters to divers noble Lords, and others, to treat their Attention to our public Difficulties: Which Petition to his Majesty, we are in Hopes has, before this Time, reached the Royal Presence, and will, ere long, have the desired Effect. And as we cannot but still entertain the Hopes that his Excellency, our Governor, will soon think fit to call a House of Representatives, who may, if they see Occasion therefore, prefer further Petitions to his Majesty for our Redress, we are therefore humbly of Opinion, and flatter ourselves, it will not be taken amiss, if we declare, and which we are assured is the Sentiment of the several Towns to which we belong, that though the present Appearance of our Public Affairs is alarming and distressing, yet that the common Cause of obtaining the Redress of the heavy Grievances under which we labour, will be best served by a firm Adherence to the Principles of the Constitution, and a close Attention to the Peace and good Order of Society. And though we are satisfied from the Knowledge we have of the Loyalty and Attachment of the Inhabitants of this Province, to the Person and Government of our most gracious Sovereign, that any Tumults and Disorders that may have happened, have not arisen from the least Disaffection to the Government, as by Law established, or the Want of Loyalty to our King, on the British Throne, but merely from a pressing Anxiety of Mind on the Account of heavy and increasing Grievances—which Grievances were very clearly set forth by the House of Representatives of this Province, in February last, in the aforesaid Petition and Letters, wherein they express their deepest Concern, that the Parliament has thought proper to pass divers Acts, imposing Taxes on his Majesty's Subjects in America, with the sole and express Purpose of raising a Revenue; and they add, "that if these Acts of Parliament should remain in Force, and his Majesty's Commons in Great-Britain, shall continue to exercise the Power of granting the Property of their Fellow-Subjects in this Province, his Majesty's People here, must then regret their unhappy Fate, in having only the Name left, of free Subjects."—And, in their Letter to their Agent, they say, that "the Colonists cannot be conceived to have any Property, if their Money may be granted away by others, without their Consent, and that this is most certainly the present Case."—And, speaking of a Standing-Army, they "appeal to the Transactions of the Parliament, to shew the Sentiments of the Nation, of the Loyalty of the People of the Province, and justly affirm, that their good Disposition renders a Standing-Army needless: They further declare, that as Englishmen, they have an Aversion to an unnecessary Standing-Army, which they look upon as dangerous to their civil Liberty. And further, that the Time may come, when an united Body of Pensioners and Soldiers, may ruin the Liberties of America."

Yet considering the invaluable Blessings, and happy Consequences of Peace and good Order, and the great Advantages resulting therefrom, for producing convincing Arguments, and placing Truth in the most conspicuous Point of View; and also considering the horri-

ble Nature, and dreadful Consequences of Tumult and Disorder, we think it our Duty, as Friends to our common Cause, as embarked in the same Bottom of Provincial Happiness, to give our free and sincere Advice, not in an authoritative, but merely a friendly Manner, that we should all of us compose our Minds, and avoid any undue Expressions of Resentment, and each one of us prevent, so much as in him lies, all Tumults and Disorders, into which our present Calamities may betray us; and to attend, with all due Patience, and a Regard to good Order, the result of his Majesty's Wisdom and Clemency, from whence we reasonably expect to receive our much desired Relief. And it is our firm Resolution, in our several Stations, as by our Allegiance required, and by our Loyalty inclined, at all Times, to yield every possible Assistance to the civil Magistrate, in the Suppression of Riots and Tumults, and in preserving the Peace; being humbly of Opinion, that the *Possé Comitatus*, when legally called in Aid of the Civil Power, will ever be sufficient to restrain all Orders of Men, within the Bounds of the Law, and the Limits of the Constitution. We, from the Bottom of our Hearts, not only disclaim and detest all Pretences of "usurping" any of the "Rights of Sovereignty," but also of arrogating to ourselves any the least Authority whatever. We clearly hold, and, whenever lawfully called thereunto, will, at the utmost Hazard of our Lives and Fortunes, maintain that the "Sovereignty" of his most sacred Majesty King GEORGE the Third, is already "entire" in all Parts of the widely extended, and still happily spreading British Empire: And may GOD forbid that we should ever once be left to think, or wish, much less to act any Thing in "opugnation" of the same, "Ignorance of the Law," neither in a Court Temporal, or Spiritual, is a proper "Plea" or "Excuse." We would appear not as Attorneys, Proctors, or Pettyfoggers, but as plain honest Men, humbly consulting Peace and Order, and for the best temporal Felicity of our Country and of Posterity. We would wish, as far as is in our Power, ever to promote and cultivate that Harmony and Union between Great-Britain and her Colonies, on which the Happiness of both so much depend. We think ourselves happy in being connected with the Parent-State, in that Subordination, which forms the happiest Bond of Union between the Colonies themselves. We have been taught, that it is the Duty of all Men, incessantly to implore the Throne of heavenly Grace, and have but lately heard, there are those who deem it criminal, for aggrieved Fellow-Subjects to join in humble, dutiful, and loyal Supplications to their Monarch. While the People wisely observe the Medium between an abject Submission, and a slavish Stupidity, under grievous Oppression on the one Hand, and irrational Attempts to obtain Redress on the other, and steadily persevere in orderly and constitutional Applications, for the recovering the Exercise of their just Rights and Liberties, they may promise themselves Success. And while they steadfastly maintain those invaluable Blessings, which are derived to them from GOD and Nature, and the happy Constitution of the Government under which we live, they may safely rely on the Influence and Direction of Him who ruleth according to his Pleasure, with unerring Wisdom, and irresistible Influence, in the Hearts of the Children of Men; under whose Favour no Grievance can be durable, and without which, no Enjoyment can be truly valuable.

October 13. Remain in Boston Harbour, his Majesty's Ships of War, as in our last. The 29th Regiment still encamped in the Common; the 14th in the Court-House, and Faneuil-Hall; the Detachment of the 59th, and the Company of the Train of Artillery, likewise in Stores, on Griffin's Wharf. But we hear that Capt. Montefour, Barrack-Master-General for America, has taken up several Dwelling-Houses, Ware-Houses, and Sugar-Houses, to which they will soon remove.

Sunday Morning, at 10 o'Clock, in consequence of Orders given out on Saturday, the Troops quartered here, assembled in the Common, without their Arms, where they formed, with their Officers, in their proper Stations.—Mr. Kneeland, Chaplain to the 59th Regiment, read Prayers, and preached a Sermon adapted to the Occasion.—The Service was attended with great Decorum.

October 17. Last Saturday Evening came to Town from New-York, his Excellency General Gage, accompanied by Colonels Robertson and Maitland, Majors Small and Sheriff, and Captains Kemble, Mathurine and Gamble. The General was received by the Troops under Arms, in the Common, and as he passed the Train, they saluted him with 17 Guns.

It is now reported that the Head-Quarters for the Army, is to be in this Town.

A Proclamation, published on Thursday last, says,—"Lieut. Col. Dalrymple had contracted for the building a Guard-House near the Fortification in the Town of Boston, in order to prevent the Desertion of the Troops under his Command, the Frame of which Building was, by some evil-minded Persons, on the Night of the 9th Instant, cut to Pieces, or otherwise destroyed, to the Detriment of his Majesty's Service."

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Bristol, to another in this Town, brought by Captain Tyler.

"Your Convulsions in Boston, have so irritated the Ministry, that they have now determined to enforce the Acts of Parliament at all Events, and GOD knows what will be the Consequence."

ANNA POLIS, November 3.

On Friday last, Robert Goldborough, Esq; resign'd the Office of Attorney-General of this Province. And, The same Day, his Excellency the Governor was pleased to commission Thomas Jennings, Esq; to succeed him in that Office.

Mr. Dakein's Letter, from the Pennsylvania Chronicle, will have a Place in our next.—We should likewise insert The Friend, No. 1. had the polite and entertaining Author, published it under his real Name, for Want of which, we apprehend, as PRINTERS, we could not be justified in giving it to the Public, tho' it is, perhaps, as elegant a Composition, as ever was penned—and the accomplished Author, must remain unreviv'd here, unless a Competitor can be produced, regularly educated at the Academy of a certain Fifth Market, in London.

The Pieces, signed A. B. and The World, are come to Hand; but, for Reasons heretofore assigned, we cannot give them a Place.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
HORATIO SHARPE, Esq;
GOVERNOR and COMMANDER in CHIEF in and over
the Province of MARYLAND.

May it please your EXCELLENCY,

AT a Time when there is too great Reason to believe your Excellency is shortly to retire from Government, his Lordship's Judges of the Provincial Court, and the Gentlemen of the Bar, appear before you, to acknowledge the many Instances of your Regard and Attention to the Welfare and Happiness of his Majesty's Subjects, the People of this Province.

An Address from us, on this Occasion, cannot be thought improper, when it is considered, that your Excellency has long presided, in the highest Department of Justice, with Honour to yourself, and general Satisfaction.

Permit us, Sir, to express the Regret we feel, at the Apprehension of being deprived of a Governor, and Chancellor, whose Conduct, in those high Stations, cannot fail to meet with the Approbation of our most gracious Sovereign, and the Lord Proprietary, and has for ever ensured to your Excellency, the Gratitude, Esteem, and Respect, of the People of Maryland.

B E N C H.

JOHN HEPBURN,
GEORGE STEWART,
B. HANDS,
JOHN LEEDS,
BEALE BORDLEY,
DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

B A R.

ROBERT GOLDSBOROUGH,
JOHN HALL,
GEORGE GARNETT,
JAMES HOLLYDAY,
S. BORDLEY, Jun.
THOMAS JOHNSON, Jun.
NICHOLAS THOMAS,
THOMAS JENINGS,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
WILLIAM HAYWARD,
SAMUEL CHASE,
WILLIAM PACA,
JOHN ROGERS,
PHILIP THOMAS LEE,
JAMES TILGHMAN, 3d.
THOMAS B. HANDS, Jun.
THOMAS STONE,
BENJAMIN RUMSEY,
BENJAMIN NICHOLSON,
THOMAS RINGGOLD,
CHARLES GORDON.

The GOVERNOR'S ANSWER:

GENTLEMEN,

THE Assurance you are pleased to give me, that my Endeavours to discharge, faithfully, the Duties of the Station, in which, by Favour of the Lord Proprietary, I have long resided among you, have met with your Approbation, affords me the most sensible Pleasure, and I shall always retain a grateful Remembrance of this Instance of your Regard.

To the Honourable the Judges of the Provincial Court, and the Gentlemen of the Bar. } HOR^o. SHARPE.

Talbot County, October 29, 1768.

JUST ARRIVED,

From LONDON, in the Brig Good-Intent, Captain Menzie, and to be SOLD at Cambridge, by the Subscriber, on the 5th and 6th Days of next Month, being the Tuesday and Wednesday of November Court.

A PARCEL of very healthy Five Years SERVANTS, consisting of the following Tradesmen, viz. Schoolmasters, Watchmakers, Weavers, Cutlers, White, and Blacksmiths, Painters, Tallow-Chandler and Soapboilers, Bricklayers, Stone-Masons, Gardeners, Stocking-Weavers, Staymakers, Hatters, Leather-Dressers, Cabinetmakers, Joiners, Carpenters, Sawyers, Tailors, Gunmakers, Clerks, Gentlemen's Valet de Chambres, Farmers, Labourers, Boys, &c. &c. for ready Cash, Produce, or short Credit.

ANTHONY BANNING.

The above Vessel is expected to sail in Five or Six Weeks at furthest, for London. For Freight, or Passage, apply as above, or to the Captain on board.

To be LEASED by the SUBSCRIBER,

Two Tracts of Land, lying on Bush-Creek, in Frederick County, one called COWMAN'S MANOR, containing 454 Acres; the other is Part of the LAND OF PROMISE, and lies immediately adjoining the other Tract, and contains 475 Acres: The whole of the above Land, is fit either for Planting or Farming: I propose to let the whole in Three Tenements only, for which I will take a very moderate Rent, and grant Leases for Eleven Years. Also to be sold, a Tract of Land, lying near the Foot of Frederick Mountain, within about Seven Miles of Frederick-Town, called CATCH AS CATCH CAN, containing 540 Acres, and is well wooded and watered. Any Person inclining to purchase, may be shewn the Land, by applying to Archibald Edmonson, living near the said Land: And if the above Land is not sold at Frederick County November Court, it may be had on Lease for a Term of Years. The Titles to the above Lands are indisputable. Attendance will be given inclinable to purchase, or lease, or with Joseph Platts, living near Bush-Creek. JOHN COWMAN.

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Dry-Saltery; Groceries;
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Olinbrigs; Hempen-Ro
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Sorts and Sizes; Wigs
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